

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 and 18-20 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 18 are amended herein to clarify the recited limitations thereof. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-15 AND 18-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER SREY (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,141,436) IN VIEW OF BONGIORNO (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,292,045) AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF TANAKA ET AL. (U.S. PUBLICATION NO. 2002/0114466)

In a telephone conversation on May 16, 2007, between Examiner Vikkram Bali and Attorney Michael Leonard, the Examiner agreed that Tanaka is not prior art. More specifically, Tanaka has a filing date of February 8, 2002, which is after the filing date of the present application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner accordingly withdraw the finality of the present Office Action.

IV. CONCLUSION

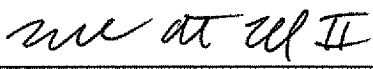
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 6-12-2007

By: 
Michael A. Leonard II
Registration No. 60,180

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501